

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities

Health Task Force Co-Chairs

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May 11, 2001

The Honorable John D. Dingell
United States House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Greg Ganske
United States House of Representatives
1108 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representatives Dingell and Ganske:

The undersigned organizations are members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Health Task Force, a coalition of over 50 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national health care policy from a disability perspective.

We are writing to express CCD's strong support for the *Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001*, H.R. 526. We applaud you for your leadership on this critical issue, and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the House to ensure passage of this important bill.

CCD has long advocated for a patients' bill of rights that protects all individuals who have private health insurance, especially children and adults with disabilities and chronic illnesses. H.R. 526, with its right to timely access to specialty care, continuity of care protections for individuals with ongoing special conditions, guaranteed point-of-service option, and strong internal and external appeals processes, provides these protections. It will ensure that consumers have timely access to the quality care they need, and a fair process to appeal denials of coverage.

We would like to thank you for considering the needs of children and adults with disabilities and their families as you have developed this important legislation. Again, CCD stands ready to assist you as you work with your colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass a comprehensive and enforceable patients' bill of rights in the 107th Congress. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers listed above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association of University Affiliated Programs for Persons with Developmental
Disabilities

American Association on Mental Retardation
 American Association on Health and Disability
 American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services
 American Council of the Blind
 American Counseling Association
 American Foundation for the Blind
 American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
 American Music Therapy Association
 American Network of Community Options and Resources
 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
 American Therapeutic Recreation Association
 Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
 Association of Academic Psychiatrists
 Association of Persons in Supported Employment
 Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
 Brain Injury Association
 Center on Disability and Health
 Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
 Easter Seals
 Epilepsy Foundation
 Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
 International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services
 National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
 National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics
 National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils
 National Association of Private Special Education Centers
 National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems
 National Association of School Psychologists
 National Council For Community Behavioral Healthcare
 National Down Syndrome Congress
 NISH
 National Mental Health Association
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society
 National Parent Network on Disabilities
 National Rehabilitation Association
 National Therapeutic Recreation Society
 Paralyzed Veterans of America
 Research Institute for Independent Living
 Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
 School Social Work Association of America
 Spina Bifida Association of America
 The Arc of the United States
 The Learning Disabilities of America
 Title II Community AIDS National Network
 Tourette Syndrome
 United Cerebral Palsy Association